

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 7, please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] The cruciform shaped ~~guide tube 112~~ guide tubes (not shown) and associated control rod drive mechanism 7 can be removed from the core region in the same manner as the control rods 54 once the necessary fuel assemblies, support blocks 170, and core support plates 100 have been removed. The fuel assemblies, fuel support blocks 170, and core support plates 100 can be removed above core 22 to allow the control rod drive mechanism 7 to also be removed above core 22 and replaced when necessary.